

To Whom it may Concern;

I am writing to express our opposition of the Federal Trade Commission to create a national "Do Not Call" list that would extend to, and include calls made on behalf of nonprofit organizations.

As a not for profit organization in Hawaii, Special Olympics Hawaii provides year-round sports training and competition to Hawaii's children and adults with mental retardation. We rely for part of our funding through telemarketing. At a time when the economy is at such a low point, to impose government restrictions on our ability to raise funds would create a severe hardship to our program. Currently in our state, the government is seeking to provide less, and the public depends even more heavily on charities to provide the social services that are being cut from government budgets.

It also seems redundant for such a law to be passed, as there already is in place a vehicle for people to utilize who wish to not be called. I understand the Direct Marketing Association already maintains a nationwide do not call list, with thousands of names already on it. In addition, many states also have do not call regulations. Why then, do we need the federal government to impose a law to duplicate that effort? Aren't we trying to stop duplications of services by the government to decrease spending?

People have the ability to stop unwanted calls in many ways. Answering machines and caller ID handle a bulk of them. In addition, a person can also eliminate these calls by asking - or demanding - that the company puts their name on a do not call list. If the company continues to solicit, the person can sue that company and receive monetary compensation for the wrongdoing. Please give people the credit they deserve - that they are intelligent enough to decide which phone calls they wish to accept - without government intervention.

There are countless other problems with this type of regulation.

- What if a person moves, and is given a phone number that has been listed on the do not call registry? How would they know? They would be cut off from organizations they may wish to support.
- The loss of jobs to the telemarketers - which are many times people who most need employment. There would be hundreds, no thousands of new people on the unemployment lines
- How in the world would the federal government ever be able to enforce this?

People do not give money unless someone asks them. At a time when we should be helping nonprofit organizations, this new proposal would limit our ability to reach out to our own supporters who have constantly donated in the past. How are charities going to continue to fund the worthwhile programs they do, if the government is interfering with their right to seek public support?

President Bush has recently spoken to the American people, encouraging them to volunteer and support their local charities. Why would the Federal Trade Commission now pass regulations that discourage public support of non profit organizations?

Special Olympics Hawaii, our Board of Directors and staff strongly appeal to you to not pass this regulation. If passed, we respectfully request that our nonprofit organization be excluded from coverage.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bottelo
President/CEO